

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

OF THE

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON  
FOR THE YEAR 1953



Public Health Department,  
St. Paul's House,  
Taunton.

July, 1954.

The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses,  
THE BOROUGH OF TAUNTON.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my third Annual Report for the year 1953.

1953 will be remembered for the exceedingly sharp outbreak of poliomyelitis, 34 cases being notified of which 31 were confirmed, giving an incidence of 93 per 100,000 which was one of the highest in the country during the year.

Measles was also very prevalent, although fortunately practically all the cases were very mild.

1953, similarly to 1952, brought relief only to the most urgent housing applications. Less than 200 new houses were erected during the year of which 35 were erected by private enterprise. 151 families at the end of the year were living in houses condemned as unfit for human habitation. The number of applications remained almost unchanged at 2,104.

It is with regret that one notes that the progress made in the new water scheme has again been disappointingly small. From a purely public health angle one cannot be but concerned that apparently another six or seven years will elapse before the new source of supply will be brought into service.

I wish to express my grateful appreciation to Alderman A. J. West, J.P., and the Public Health Committee for the unfailing help and consideration I have received and the friendly co-operation extended to me by my fellow officials.

I am,

Your obedient servant,  
LEO FAY,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## BOROUGH OF TAUNTON.

### Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1953.

#### GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres ... ... ... ... ... ... ...	2,434
Population (estimated by Registrar General, mid-year) ... ...	34,660
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1953 (according to the rate books) ... ... ... ...	9,198
Rateable value at the end of 1953 ... ... ... ...	£266,654
Estimated product of a penny rate ... ... ... ...	£1,050

#### VITAL STATISTICS

Births, live legitimate	Male 221	Female 230	Total 451	
Births, live illegitimate	Male 17	Female 11	Total 28	
				479
Births, still legitimate	Male 9	Female 2	Total 11	
Births, still illegitimate	Male —	Female —	Total —	
Birth rate, total, corrected by factor 1.04 ...	...	...	...	14.69
live            ,,            ,,            ...	...	...	...	14.37
still            ,,            ,,            ...	...	...	...	0.32
illegitimate    ,,            ,,            ...	...	...	...	0.83
Deaths, Male 208, Female 201    ...	...	...	...	Total 409
Death rate, crude    ...	...	...	...	11.79
corrected by factor 0.95    ...	...	...	...	11.20
Deaths of infants under one year of age, Male 3, Female 6. Total				9
Infant mortality rate ... ... ... ...	...	...	...	18.75
Deaths from Diarrhoea under two years of age	...	...	...	2
Rate per 1,000 live births ... ... ... ...	...	...	...	4.17

The increase in population is becoming less each year, there being only an increase of 60 in 1953. The number of live births was almost unchanged, i.e., 479 compared with 477 in 1952. There were only nine deaths of infants under one year which is a very fair indication of the value of the child welfare services both public and private in the Borough.

## REGISTRAR GENERAL'S TABLE OF DEATHS

<i>Cause of Death</i>		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	—
Syphilitic disease	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
Whooping cough	...	...	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	2	2
Measles	...	...	1	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	9	4	13
Malignant neoplasm, lung	...	9	—	9
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	—	5	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	16	16	32
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	1	—	1
Diabetes	...	1	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	18	31	49
Coronary disease, angina	...	22	16	38
Hypertension with heart disease	...	7	1	8
Other heart disease	...	52	66	118
Other circulatory disease	...	13	15	28
Influenza	...	1	4	5
Pneumonia	....	7	3	10
Bronchitis	...	11	9	20
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	1	2	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	6	2	8
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	—	2	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	2	3	5
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	2	—	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	...	1	2	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	15	13	28
Motor vehicle accidents	...	1	1	2
All other accidents	...	5	—	5
Suicide	...	5	1	6
Homicide and operations of war	...	—	—	—

Again the commonest cause of death is heart disease, closely followed by the various forms of arterial disease. Cancer, including that of the lung, shows no increase. There were no deaths associated with childbirth for the sixth year in succession. From everyone's point of view this is one of the most satisfactory features of the report.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1953

Disease			Originally notified	Removed to I. Hospital	Corrected Numbers	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	53	8	53	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	27	1	27	—
Acute Poliomyelitis—						
Paralytic	...	...	18	15	15	2
Non-paralytic	...	...	16	16	16	—
Measles	...	...	372	2	372	1
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	24	1	24	1
Dysentery	...	...	23	—	22	—
Smallpox	...	...	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis—						
Infective	...	...	—	—	—	—
Post-infectious	...	...	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	...	...	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	7	—	7	—
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	8	—	8	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	4	1	4	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	1	—	1	—
Tuberculosis—						
Respiratory (including 5 removals in)	...	...	55	—	55	—
Non-respiratory	...	...	9	—	9	—
Malaria (B.T.) contracted abroad...			2	—	2	—

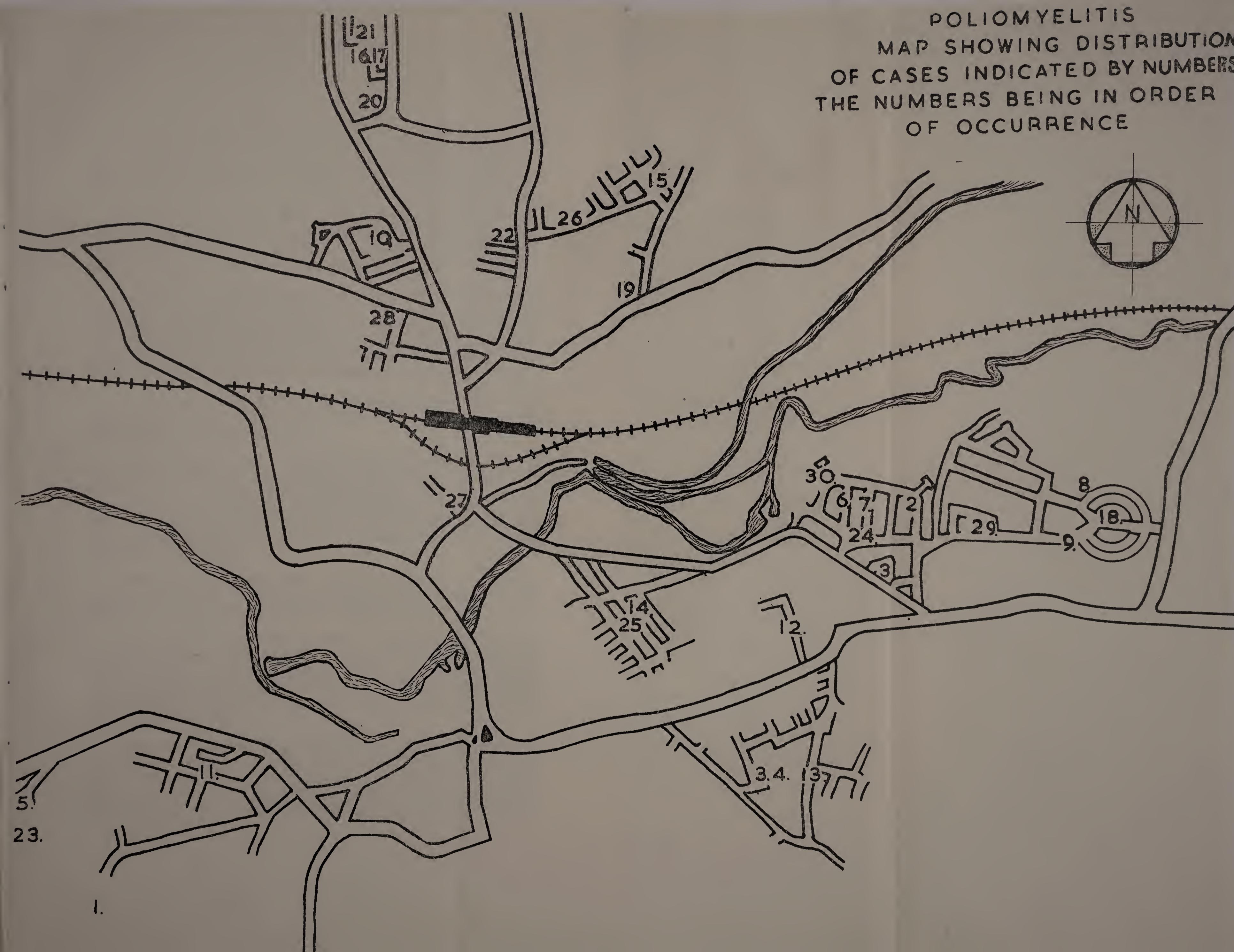
The outstanding feature of 1953 and one which gave rise to most concern was the sharp outbreak of poliomyelitis, which accounted for 15 paralytic and 16 non-paralytic cases with two deaths.

**Table showing age distribution**

1-5	5-15	15+
11	10	10

The above table shows the age incidence, and there was actually one case (paralysis of both legs) in a woman of 76 who subsequently made a fairly good recovery.

POLIOMYELITIS  
MAP SHOWING DISTRIBUTION  
OF CASES INDICATED BY NUMBERS  
THE NUMBERS BEING IN ORDER  
OF OCCURRENCE





Week ending	June			July				August					September				October			
	20	27	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17		
	1	—	—	1	5	7	1	6	3	1	1	1	—	—	2	—	1	1		

The above table shows the time incidence of the outbreak. In view of the high incidence of the disease it is not without note that all the cases notified were confined to one-third of the year, and that by mid-October the outbreak ceased as abruptly as it began.

A study of the diagrammatic map shows that although there were only two instances of two cases in one house, nevertheless there was a definite grouping of the cases which suggests a household to household infection rather than a ubiquitous infection, of which only the clinically obvious came to light. Nevertheless it was rarely possible to prove a direct link between the individual cases.

As there were only another eight working days until the end of term when the second case was notified it was decided to close immediately all rate-aided schools.

Organised gatherings of children were also discontinued and the departure from Taunton of all organised parties of children and adolescents, i.e., Scouts, etc., was discouraged. The precise value of such measures is difficult to determine. Certainly they were given the strongest support from the general public, and in the light of our knowledge at that time it would have been difficult to justify alternative procedures.

1953 was a "measles year", which incidentally carried on until well into 1954. There were 372 cases, most of them extremely mild, although two were removed to hospital and one died.

It is now six years since a case of diphtheria occurred in Taunton compared with a yearly average of 37 cases with 1.4 deaths in the ten years prior to immunisation. It must be repeated again that this happy state will last only as long as immunisation is maintained at a sufficiently high level. The immunisation rate for 1953 was not satisfactory.

These notes on infectious diseases in 1953 in Taunton would be incomplete if reference were not made to the fact that for the first time in recorded history there were no deaths due to tuberculosis, either pulmonary or non-pulmonary, during the year, compared with a pre-war average of 15 pulmonary and 3.3 non-pulmonary.

## TUBERCULOSIS

		Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary
Cases on the Borough Register 31.12.53	...	245 (223)	49 (45)
Number of new cases during the year	...	50 (30)	9 (4)
Number of deaths during the year ...	...	1 (9)	— (1)
(The cause of death in this case was carcinoma of the bronchus).			
Average yearly deaths during the pre-war decade	...    ...    ...    ...    ...	15	3.3
(Figures in brackets are those of 1952)			

The above table shows that despite the absence of deaths to which reference has just been made, there has been a substantial increase in new cases notified. This is undoubtedly due, mainly if not wholly, to better ascertainment in which mass radiography has played no small part.

### Mass Radiography

The Static Unit was at the Health Centre, Tower Lane, from 23rd November to 4th December, 1953.

Adult attendances numbered 4,956. Of these ten were found to be active and 62 inactive cases of tuberculosis.

Children who attended from schools in the Divisional Area, including King's College and Taunton School, totalled 1,228. No cases of active tuberculosis were discovered among them but five children had inactive lesions.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47

No cases were dealt with during the year.

## WATER SUPPLY

The total amount of treated water put into supply in the Borough and adjoining areas was 583 million gallons, an increase of five millions on the previous year. Although it was not found necessary to cut the supply during the year, the rainfall being normal, the lack of filter and storage capacity, together with the ever increasing demand, was responsible for an intermittent and inadequate supply in the higher reaches of the Borough and particularly in the more rural areas.

As and when the house-building campaign gets really under way an increasing demand is inevitable. This, linked with an

already inadequate storage capacity of less than 80 days, underlines the urgency of the Clatworthy scheme. From a purely public health angle therefore it is a matter of real concern to learn that six to seven years must elapse before the Clatworthy water is in supply. It is to be hoped that none of these years is a year of drought, otherwise irksome and potentially dangerous restrictions may have to be enforced.

The raw water is an upland surface water reasonably soft and with no plumbo solvent action. Before distribution it is subjected to sedimentation, filtration and chlorination, and the following table indicates the efficiency of the treatment, which results in a water which is extremely safe, although occasionally the chlorination slightly affects its palatability.

Raw Water				Treated after going into Supply			
Bacteriological		Chemical		Bacteriological		Chemical	
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
21	—	3	—	138	3	6	—

Two of these unsatisfactory reports resulted from repairs, etc., carried out to the Leigh Reservoir.

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The present existing facilities for the treatment and disposal of sewage in the Borough are seriously inadequate. A new scheme costing over half a million pounds is, however, well under way, the contract having been placed and the work commenced.

### HOUSING

I am indebted to the Housing Architect and the Housing Officer for the following tables:—

TABLE 1.

No. of Post-War Houses erected to 31st December, 1953		Programme for 1954	
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise
1,277	118	244	—

*Houses required:—*

To abate overcrowding ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	170
To overcome unsatisfactory conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,298
Total number of applicants for Council houses at the end of 1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,104

TABLE 2.

*Details of Post-War Houses:—*

						Rent
Four bedroomed houses	...	...	...	...	...	8 28/4
Three bedroomed houses	...	...	...	...	651	26/3
Two bedroomed houses	...	...	...	...	149	23/1
Two bedroomed flats	...	...	...	...	106	18/5
One bedroomed flats	...	...	...	...	34	11/10
Bedsitting flats	...	...	...	...	12	9/-
Temporary bungalows, two bedroomed	...	...	...	225		18/11
Permanent bungalows, two bedroomed	...	...	...	85		27/4
Permanent bungalows, two bedroomed (brick)				10		21/-
Converted Nissen Huts	...	...	...	48		11/4
						1,328

TABLE 3.

	Houses erected during 1953	In course of erection	Conversions
Local Authority ...	162	—	—
Private Enterprise	35	36	11

TABLE 4.

*Condemned houses still occupied:—*

Owned by the Corporation ...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Under Requisition Powers ...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Licensed for occupation ...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Occupied continuously since date of Clearance Orders ...	...	...	...	...	...	39
					Total	... 151

Only 197 new houses were erected in 1953 including 35 erected by private enterprise.

The programme for 1954 is 244 houses to be erected by the Council. This progress is disappointingly slow and grave hardship is being inflicted in far too many cases. The psychological injury, for instance, which may be inflicted by overcrowding is often permanent and irreparable. Nevertheless now that the land difficulties have been solved, there is a good prospect of substantial improvement in 1955.

## HEALTH SERVICES

Administered in Taunton M.B. by the Somerset County Council

### Ante-Natal Clinic

This is held at the Health Centre, Tower Lane, on Mondays (Assistant Medical Officer in attendance) and Wednesdays (Midwives in attendance).

The attendances in 1953 were :—

		Mondays	Wednesdays	Total
Total attendances	...	...	614	1,208
New cases	...	...	237	174

### Post-Natal Clinic

This is held at the Health Centre, Tower Lane, on the second and the fourth Thursdays in each month. The attendances in 1953 were :—

Total attendances	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
New cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	45

### Premature Baby Service

In addition to the arrangements for the care of full-time children a special service is provided for premature infants. If there is a risk that a child will be born after less than 37 or 38 weeks' gestation arrangements are made for the admission of the expectant mother to Musgrove Park Hospital, where special facilities are available and special equipment is provided where necessary.

On the birth of a child it is visited at home, with the co-operation of the Health Visitors, by Assistant Nursing Officers with special training for this work.

During 1953, 28 premature infants were born in hospitals, of whom three died; three were born at home, one of these subsequently being removed to hospital, and all three survived.

## **Home Visiting of Infants**

This is carried out by four Health Visitors. Their work in 1953 included :—

First visits to children under five years of age ...	...	419
Re-visits to children under five years of age ...	...	5,732
Visits to ante-natal cases ... ... ...	...	8
Other visits (infectious diseases, old people, etc.)	...	598
		6,757

## **Infant Welfare Centres**

There are now three held in the town :—

Tower Lane, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Halcon Chapel, on Wednesday afternoons.

Harcourt Street Adult School, on Friday afternoons.

During 1953 the attendances of infants at these centres totalled 4,555, including 369 new cases.

## **Immunisation of Infants against Diphtheria**

Year	Total "Primaries" under 5 years	Live births of preceding year, i.e., "potential"	Percentage immunised	Total "Primaries" 5-14 years	Total reinforce- ments
1953	... 253	477	53.0	16	360

The decrease in the percentage of infants immunised is due to the suspension of immunisation during the prevalence of poliomyelitis.

## **Distribution of Welfare Foods**

National dried milk, orange juice and cod liver oil for infants and vitamin tablets for expectant mothers, provided by the Ministry of Food, are distributed at the Welfare Centres. In addition valuable food accessories, such as certain proprietary brands of dried milk, breakfast cereals, rose hip syrup and malt extract, are distributed to mothers and children by the voluntary workers of the Taunton Infant Health Society.

## Orthopædic Clinic

This is held in the Health Centre on Wednesdays and Fridays, the Surgeon attending twice a month. This service is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board but is administered on an agency basis by the Somerset County Council.

## Dental Clinic, Tower Lane

The treatment given to school children was as follows:—

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers :—

(a) Periodic age groups ...	...	...	...	...	...	2,271
(b) Specials ...	...	...	...	...	...	751
					Total	...

Total ... 3,022

(2) Number found to require treatment ...	...	...	...	...	2,535
(3) Number referred for treatment ...	...	...	...	...	2,097
(4) Number actually treated ...	...	...	...	...	1,698
(5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment ...	...	...	...	...	4,654
(6) Half-days devoted to :—Inspection 24, Treatment 661½	...	...	...	...	685½
(7) Fillings :—					

Permanent teeth 2,299, Temporary teeth 289 ... ... 2,588

(8) Number of teeth filled :—

Permanent teeth 1,995, Temporary teeth 270 ... ... 2,265

(9) Extractions :—

Permanent teeth 708, Temporary teeth 2,192 ... ... 2,900

(10) Administration of general anæsthetics for extraction ... ... 784

(11) Other operations :—

Permanent teeth 1,940, Temporary teeth 316 ... ... 2,256

The treatment given to expectant and nursing mothers and to pre-school children is shown below:—

			Pre-school	
			Adults	Children
(1) Number of cases inspected ...	...	...	44	107
(2) Number found to require treatment ...	...	...	34	99
(3) Number of cases treated ...	...	...	36	92
(4) Number of attendees ...	...	...	111	177
(5) Administration of general anæsthetics ...	...	...	7	63
(6) Number of teeth extracted ...	...	...	62	196
(7) Number of teeth filled ...	...	...	37	17
(8) Number of fillings ...	...	...	50	13
(9) Scaling and gum treatment ...	...	...	6	—
(10) Silver Nitrate treatment ...	...	...	2	20
(11) Other treatment ...	...	...	13	31

### **The Day Nursery**

This is situated at Victoria Park, East Reach, and is open each weekday except Saturdays and public holidays.

Accommodation is provided from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for a maximum of 48 children. This number was reduced to 30 at the end of December.

The average daily attendance during 1953 was 29.9.

### **Home Help Service**

This service is administered in the County Hall, Taunton.

During 1953, 210 Borough residents received assistance in their homes. These included the following types of cases:—

Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Old age and infirmity	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Chronic illness	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Emergency illness	...	...	...	...	...	...	60

Many cases of old age and chronic illness have received help for some years.

### **Ambulance Service**

The main ambulance station is situated at Musgrove Park Hospital. A service throughout the 24 hours is provided by five ambulances and three sitting-case cars.

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR**  
**for the year 1953**

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my annual report for the twelve months ending December 31st, 1953.

**SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS**

**Housing and General Sanitary Work**

Houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts ...	83
Re-inspections ... ... ... ... ... ...	104
Infectious diseases, in connection with ... ... ...	38
Faactories ... ... ... ... ...	70
Drainage, in connection with ... ... ...	398
Rodent Control (excluding visits made by Rodent Operator) ...	71
Public conveniences ... ... ... ...	12
Houses let in lodgings ... ... ...	13
Moveable dwellings ... ... ...	52
Stables, piggeries ... ... ...	9
Offensive trades ... ... ...	15
Smoke observations ... ... ...	73
Verminous premises ... ... ...	54
Common lodging houses ... ...	7
Refuse disposal, in connection with ... ...	18
Shops ... ... ...	66
Interviews ... ... ...	155
Cinemas and places of entertainment ... ...	5
Schools ... ... ...	13
Miscellaneous sanitary visits ... ...	139
Pet shops ... ... ...	4
Scrap metal dealers ... ... ...	1
Meteorology ... ... ...	315

**Housing Repairs**

The work of repairs to houses is still being dealt with under Section 92 of the Public Health Act, 1936. During the year the following work was carried out:—

Drains unchoked or repaired ...	...	...	...	...	48
Remedial measures taken against dampness	...	...	...	...	2
Water supply improved	...	...	...	...	2
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	12
New W.C.s provided	...	...	...	...	7
Water closets repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	9
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Miscellaneous repairs	...	...	...	...	10
Floors	...	...	...	...	1
Septic tanks emptied	...	...	...	...	1
Artificial light provided	...	...	...	...	2

### **Housing Act, 1936; Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953**

During the year a Closing Order was made in respect of one house under these Acts as being unfit for human habitation.

### **Complaints**

During the year 524 complaints were received at the Health Department. These complaints had reference to the following matters :—

Housing conditions	...	...	...	...	...	49
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	85
Rats or mice	...	...	...	...	...	137
Unsound food	...	...	...	...	...	128
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	125

All these complaints were investigated and appropriate action taken.

### **Defence (General) Regulations, 1939**

At the commencement of the year 30 houses that had been closed under Clearance or Demolition Orders were being occupied under powers conferred by these Regulations. During the year two houses were closed as being unfit for further occupation, reducing the total number of houses occupied under the Regulations to 28.

### **Public Health Act, 1936—Section 24**

During the year 26 sewers were found to be choked, and were cleansed by the Corporation. Sewers dealt with under this section are those that were maintainable by owners of property under previous Public Health Acts. Two of these sewers were found to be defective and were amended by the Corporation at the cost of the owners.

## VERMIN

During the year, 43 houses were treated for various forms of insect pests with satisfactory results.

### Rodent Control.

The Corporation's Rodent Operator continued the systematic search for rodents, and treatment of premises where infestation was found. The following work was carried out during the year :—

Treatments at private dwellings	...	...	...	...	237
Visits involved	...	...	...	...	1,055
Treatments at business premises	...	...	...	...	30
Visits involved	...	...	...	...	124
Treatments at premises owned by the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	5
Visits involved	...	...	...	...	26
Visits on search work	...	...	...	...	708

### Disinfection

Disinfection of premises and bedding after the removal of patients suffering from Tuberculosis, or after death, was carried out at 23 houses.

## SPECIAL CLASSES OF PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS SUBJECT TO CONTROL BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

### Public Health Act, 1936

Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	1
<b>Offensive Trades—</b>						
Tanners	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hide and Skin Depots	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rag and Bone Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	4
<b>Moveable Dwellings—</b>						
Sites for moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	3
Individual moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	11

### The Rag, Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

Registered Premises	...	...	...	...	...	9
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### Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907—Section 86

Dealers in old metal and places of business registered under this Section	...	...	...	...	...	5
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### **Pet Animals Act, 1951**

Licences to keep pet shops     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...     4

The conditions prevailing at the above premises during the year were found to be satisfactory.

### **Sampling of Swimming Bath Water**

During the year 44 samples of the water at the St. James' Street Baths, taken at the inlet and outlet ends, were examined by the Bacteriologist. The reports on all samples were satisfactory.

## **FOOD INSPECTION**

### **Visits in connection with the inspection and supervision of foods**

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	941
Foodshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	257
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Restaurants, Hotels and Cafés	...	...	...	...	...	...	58

### **Milk Supply**

There are 14 registered dairies and 16 registered distributors of milk operating within the Borough. Two of the distributors operate from premises outside the Borough. Fourteen of the local distributors hold licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk and seven hold licences to sell Pasteurised Milk, whilst two of the distributors from outside the Borough hold supplementary licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk and two for Pasteurised Milk.

There are four milk pasteurising plants within the Borough, but these are controlled by the Somerset County Council.

### **Sampling of Milk sold under Special Designations**

During the year, 34 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk, and 40 samples of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk being sold within the Borough were submitted to the Bacteriologist for examination. Of these, 30 of the Tuberculin Tested samples and 38 of the Tuberculin Tested (pasteurised) samples were reported as being satisfactory. Four samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk and two samples of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk were reported as being unsatisfactory. All unsatisfactory reports are referred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries or the Somerset County Council as the case may be for investigation.

## **Ice Cream**

The registrations of premises under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream are as follows:—

Manufacture and sale	...	...	...	...	4
Storage	...	...	...	...	1
Storage and sale	...	...	...	...	81

## **Sampling of Ice Cream**

During the year, 36 samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory. The results were as follows:—

Grade 1	...	...	...	...	...	19
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	...	10
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	...	3
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	...	4

## **Food Inspection**

As a result of inspection of food at foodshops and warehouses, the following commodities were condemned:—

### **CANNED FOOD**

Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,240 tins
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	...	...	172 ,,
Spinach	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 ,,
Soup	...	...	...	...	...	...	31 ,,
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	157 ,,
Steak	...	...	...	...	...	...	44 ,,
Mixed Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	7 ,,
Spaghetti	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 ,,
Baked Beans	...	...	...	...	...	...	42 ,,
Peas	...	...	...	...	...	...	108 ,,
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	83 ,,
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	204 ,,
Christmas Pudding	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 ,,
Rabbit	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 ,,
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	...	37 ,,
Carrots	...	...	...	...	...	...	30 ,,
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	...	22 ,,
Fish Paste	...	...	...	...	...	...	18 ,,
Ox Tongue	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 ,,
Ham and Veal Loaf	...	...	...	...	...	...	67 ,,
Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 ,,
Ham	...	...	...	...	...	...	43 ,,
Pork Luncheon Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	169 ,,
Fruit Juice	...	...	...	...	...	...	111 ,,
Frozen Egg	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 ,,

## OTHER FOODS

Flour	...	...	...	...	...	54	lbs.
Fruit Fudge	...	...	...	...	...	56	"
Chocolate	...	...	...	...	...	17	"
Dried Egg	...	...	...	...	...	56	"
Jam Rolls	...	...	...	...	...	95	"
Tea Cakes	...	...	...	...	...	576	
Roast Pork	...	...	...	...	...	31	lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	49	"
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	1,136	"
Ham	...	...	...	...	...	29	"
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	48	jars
Sauce	...	...	...	...	...	3	"
Piccalilli	...	...	...	...	...	5	"
Mincemeat	...	...	...	...	...	1	"
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	5	"
Cereals	...	...	...	...	...	4	pkts.
Chicken Cutlets	...	...	...	...	...	37	
Chicken	...	...	...	...	...	32	
Ducks	...	...	...	...	...	30	
Scotch Eggs	...	...	...	...	...	24	
Fish Cakes	...	...	...	...	...	17	
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	35	lbs.
Pressed Beef	...	...	...	...	...	41	"
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	154	"
Meat Pies	...	...	...	...	...	210	

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

### Prosecutions

During the year, 8 prosecutions were instituted for offences under the above Act, viz. :—

<i>Trader</i>	<i>Offence</i>	<i>Result of Case</i>
Dairymen	... Dirty milk bottle ...	Fine imposed.
Baker	... Dirt in bread ...	Fine imposed.
Dairymen	... Dirty milk bottle ...	Fine imposed.
Grocer	... Sale of mouldy chocolate rolls ...	Fine imposed.
Caterers	... Sale of mouldy chocolate cream sponge ...	Fine imposed.
Caterers	... Exposure for sale of mouldy chocolate cream sponge ...	Fine imposed.
Grocer	... Sale of alleged unsound chicken ...	Case not proved and dismissed.
Grocer	... Sale of mouldy French jam sandwich ...	Fine imposed.

### Food and Drugs Act, 1938—Section 13

Since the routine inspection of catering premises was commenced two years ago a general improvement in hygiene has taken place. In particular sanitary accommodation and washing facil-

ties have been greatly improved, and the redecoration of premises has tended to become an annual practice. During the year 58 visits were paid to such premises.

### Meat Inspection

There are two slaughterhouses in use within the Borough, a Government slaughterhouse and a bacon factory. The former supplies meat to Taunton Borough, Taunton Rural, Wellington Urban, Wellington Rural and Langport Rural Districts. In addition, carcases are occasionally exported to other centres.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year:—

Beasts	...	...	...	...	...	2,424
Cows	...	...	...	...	...	1,257
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...	...	...	13,489
Calves	...	...	...	...	...	577
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	45,637

The inspection of the above carcases revealed disease at set out in the following table:—

	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep, Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2,424	1,257	577	13,489	45,637
Number inspected	2,424	1,257	577	8,000	45,637
Whole carcases condemned for disease other than T.B.	6	14	9	57	51
Carcases from which some part or organ was condemned	1,354		34	916	2,760
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	36.7%		5.8%	11.4%	6.4%
<i>Tuberculosis only</i> —					
Whole carcases condemned	8	18	—	—	53
Carcases from which some part or organ was condemned	560	—	—	—	3,760
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	15.2%	—	—	—	8.2%

In addition, the following meat was condemned on butchers' premises on account of bone taint and other causes:—

Home-killed Pork	...	...	...	75 lbs.
Home-killed Beef	...	...	...	921 lbs.
Home-killed Mutton	...	...	...	48 lbs.
Imported Beef	...	...	...	387 lbs.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

### 1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes as to provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ... ... ...	26	18	4	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ... ... ...	152	52	9	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	3	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ...	<b>181</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>—</b>

### 2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Found	Remedied	Referred			
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector		
Want of cleanliness ... ...	3	3	—	3	—	
Overcrowding ... ...	—	—	—	—	—	
Unreasonable temperature ...	1	1	—	1	—	
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—	
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—	—	
Sanitary Conveniences—						
(a) Insufficient ... ...	2	2	—	2	—	
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	6	5	—	5	—	
(c) Not Separate for Sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ... ...	2	1	—	—	—	
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ...	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>—</b>	

## OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list	Section 110		Section 111	
		No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Making of wearing apparel ...	647	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

P. J. GOUGH,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.





